

III. REMARKS

Claims 1 – 6, 8 – 20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 7 has been cancelled and claim 1 – 3, 8 and 10 have been amended. The following remarks are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Furthermore, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3 - 8 and 10 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and claims 12 – 20 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 6,104,291 to Beauvillier et al. Claim 1 as currently amended incorporates claim 7 as a feature in the apparatus for evaluating a radio frequency (RF) identification system.

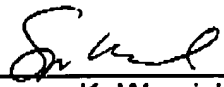
Claim 7 is now placed in independent form encompassing all limitations of the base claim 1. Claim 2 and 3 have been amended to correspond to the revisions to claim 1, currently amended, and claim 2. Accordingly, claims 1 – 6, 8 – 20 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Office to reconsider the currently amended claims and issue a Notice of Allowance.

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Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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